



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 376

LCO No. 3600



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT ELIMINATING SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AS AN ELIGIBILITY
CRITERION FOR CERTAIN STATE AND MUNICIPAL VETERANS'
BENEFITS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
5 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
6 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
7 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
8 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
9 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
10 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
11 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
12 section 27-103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in
13 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in
14 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military

15 service academy, which veteran] has been accepted for admission to
16 such institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
17 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the
18 state sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at the end of the regular
19 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
20 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
21 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
22 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
23 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut State
24 Police Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
25 academy offered in coordination with a regional community-technical
26 college which accredits courses taken in such program, (5) for any active
27 member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has
28 been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's
29 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled
30 or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time
31 basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, (6) for any
32 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
33 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
34 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
35 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
36 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child
37 or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of
38 this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was
39 killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and
40 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of
41 the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who
42 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the
43 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and
44 who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition
45 waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
46 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
47 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
48 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this

49 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
50 tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-
51 technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as
52 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for
53 less than one year.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
56 *2025*):

57 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
58 undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Connecticut State
59 University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the
60 armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or
61 to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after
62 January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such
63 institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted
64 for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of
65 subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
66 103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
67 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
68 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
69 which veteran] has been accepted for admission to such institution and
70 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for
71 admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two
72 years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to such
73 institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting
74 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are
75 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
76 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the
77 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space
78 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for
79 any student attending the Connecticut Police Academy who is enrolled
80 in a law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination
81 with the university which accredits courses taken in such program, (5)

82 for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard
83 who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant
84 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B)
85 is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time
86 or part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting
87 program, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined
88 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
89 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
90 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
91 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for any resident of this state
92 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
93 victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any dependent child of a
94 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
95 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
96 and (9) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
97 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
98 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
99 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
100 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
101 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an
102 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
103 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
104 Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be given the
105 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
106 courses at Connecticut state universities. Notwithstanding the
107 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
108 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
111 *2025*):

112 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
113 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of
114 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed

115 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have
116 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January
117 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University
118 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is
119 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions
120 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
121 103, who [performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
122 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
123 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
124 which veteran] has been accepted for admission to said institution and
125 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for
126 admission to said institution, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two
127 years of age or older who has been accepted for admission to said
128 institution, provided (A) such resident is enrolled in a degree-granting
129 program, or (B) at the end of the regular registration period, there are
130 enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students other than those
131 residents eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the
132 course in which such resident intends to enroll and there is space
133 available in such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for
134 any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who
135 (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant
136 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (B)
137 is enrolled or accepted for admission to said institution on a full-time or
138 part-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting
139 program, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined
140 in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
141 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
142 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
143 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state
144 who is the dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
145 victim who was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a
146 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
147 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
148 and (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or

149 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
150 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
151 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
152 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
153 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an
154 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
155 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
156 Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the
157 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
158 courses at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the
159 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
160 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

161 Sec. 4. Section 5-224 of the general statutes is repealed and the
162 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

163 Any veteran, [who served in time of war,] if such veteran is not
164 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
165 Department of Veterans Affairs, or the spouse of such veteran who by
166 reason of such veteran's disability is unable to pursue gainful
167 employment, or the unmarried surviving spouse of such veteran, and if
168 such person has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any
169 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
170 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
171 subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall have five points added to [his or
172 her] such person's earned rating. Any such veteran, or the spouse of
173 such veteran who by reason of such veteran's disability is unable to
174 pursue gainful employment, or the unmarried surviving spouse of such
175 veteran, if such person is eligible for such disability compensation or
176 pension and if such person has attained at least the minimum earned
177 rating on any such examination held for an original appointment for the
178 purpose of establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance
179 with subsection (d) of section 5-228, shall have ten points added to [his
180 or her] such person's earned rating. Any veteran who has served in a
181 military action for which such [person] veteran received or was entitled

182 to receive a campaign badge or expeditionary medal, shall have five
183 points added to [his or her] such veteran's earned rating if such [person]
184 veteran has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any such
185 examination held for an original appointment for the purpose of
186 establishing a candidate list to fill a vacancy in accordance with
187 subsection (d) of section 5-228 and such [person] veteran is not
188 otherwise eligible to receive additional points pursuant to this section.
189 Any person who is a member of the armed forces, as defined in section
190 27-103, and who is in the final year of an enlistment contract with any
191 branch of the armed forces shall have five points added to [his or her]
192 such person's earned rating if such person has attained at least the
193 minimum earned rating on any such examination held for an original
194 appointment for the purpose of establishing a candidate list to fill a
195 vacancy in accordance with subsection (d) of section 5-228. Names of
196 any such persons shall be placed upon the candidate lists in the order of
197 such augmented ratings. Credits shall be based upon examinations with
198 a possible rating of one hundred points.

199 Sec. 5. Section 7-415 of the general statutes is repealed and the
200 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

201 Any veteran, [who served in time of war, if he] if such veteran is not
202 eligible for disability compensation or pension from the United States
203 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and if [he]
204 such veteran has attained at least the minimum earned rating on any
205 examination held for the purpose of establishing an employment list for
206 original appointment, shall have five points added to [his] such
207 veteran's earned rating. Any such veteran, if [he] such veteran is eligible
208 for such disability compensation or pension and if [he] such veteran has
209 attained at least the minimum earned rating on any such examination,
210 shall have ten points added to [his] such veteran's earned rating. Names
211 of veterans shall be placed on the list of eligibles in the order of such
212 augmented rating. Credits shall be based upon examinations with a
213 possible rating of one hundred points. No such points shall be added to
214 any earned rating in any civil service or merit examination except as

215 provided in this section, the provisions of any municipal charter or
216 special act notwithstanding.

217 Sec. 6. Section 27-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

219 Any veteran who is a citizen of this state and who, through disability
220 or other causes incident to service in the armed forces, [in time of war,]
221 is in need of temporary financial assistance may be provided for by the
222 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs by a method similar to that provided
223 in section 27-82, the amount and continuance of such assistance to be
224 discretionary with the commissioner. The widow, widower and each
225 child, parent, brother or sister of any member of the armed forces, who
226 died while in such active service, may be assisted by the commissioner
227 if such person or persons are without sufficient means of support by
228 reason of the death of such member of the armed forces. In carrying out
229 [his or her] the commissioner's duties under the provisions of this
230 section, the commissioner is directed to cooperate with such federal
231 agencies as may aid in securing prompt and suitable treatment, care and
232 relief of any such member of the armed forces or [his or her] such
233 member's dependents. The records of the agencies of the state shall be
234 placed at the disposal of the commissioner and such agencies are
235 directed to cooperate with and to assist the commissioner in carrying
236 out [his or her] the commissioner's duties. As used in this section,
237 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

238 Sec. 7. Section 27-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
239 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

240 All money so paid to and received by the American Legion shall be
241 expended by it in furnishing temporary income; subsistence items such
242 as food, wearing apparel, shelter and related expenses; medical or
243 surgical aid or care or relief (1) to, or in bearing the funeral expenses of,
244 soldiers, sailors or marines (A) (i) who [performed service in time of
245 war, as defined in section 27-103,] served in any branch of the military
246 service of the United States, including the Connecticut National Guard,

247 or (ii) who were engaged in any of the wars waged by the United States
248 during said periods in the forces of any government associated with the
249 United States, (B) who are or were veterans, as defined in section 27-103,
250 and (C) who were citizens or resident aliens of the state at the time of
251 entering said armed forces of the United States, including the
252 Connecticut National Guard, or of any such government, (2) to their
253 spouses who are living with them, (3) to their widows or widowers who
254 were living with them at the time of death, or (4) to dependent children
255 under eighteen years of age, who may be in need of [the same] such
256 temporary income, subsistence items, medical or surgical aid or care or
257 relief. All such payments shall be made by the American Legion under
258 authority of its bylaws, which bylaws shall set forth the procedure for
259 proof of eligibility for such aid, provided payments made for the care
260 and treatment of any person entitled to the benefits provided for
261 [herein] in this section, at any hospital receiving aid from the General
262 Assembly unless special care and treatment are required, shall be in
263 accordance with the provisions of section 17b-239, and provided the
264 sum expended for the care or treatment of such person at any other place
265 than a state-aided hospital shall in no case exceed the actual cost of
266 supporting such person at the Healthcare Center in Rocky Hill
267 maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, unless special care
268 and treatment are required, when such sum as may be determined by
269 the treasurer of such organization may be paid [therefor] for such care
270 and treatment. Upon the completion of the trust provided for in section
271 27-138, the principal fund shall revert to the State Treasury.

272 Sec. 8. Section 14-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the
273 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

274 "Disabled veteran", as used in this section, means a person who (1)
275 [any] is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, [who performed service
276 in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,] and who (2) (A) has one or
277 both [of whose] legs or arms or parts thereof [have been] amputated or
278 the use of which has been lost, (B) [who] is blind, paraplegic or
279 hemiplegic, or (C) [who] has traumatic brain injury, provided any such

280 disability described in subdivision (2) of this section [being] is certified
281 as service-connected by the United States Department of Veterans
282 Affairs. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, upon application of any
283 disabled veteran accompanied by such certificate of United States
284 Department of Veterans Affairs, shall issue without charge a special
285 number plate or set of plates in accordance with the provisions of
286 subsection (a) of section 14-21b to be attached to a passenger motor
287 vehicle owned or operated by such disabled veteran and an
288 identification card to be used in connection therewith. The card shall
289 identify the disabled veteran and the motor vehicle and shall state that
290 such disabled veteran is qualified to receive the card, that the card, plate
291 or plates shall be returned to the commissioner if the registration of the
292 motor vehicle is cancelled or transferred and that the card is for the
293 exclusive use of the disabled veteran to whom it is issued, is not
294 transferable and will be revoked if presented by any other person or if
295 any privilege granted under this section is abused. If not so revoked, the
296 card shall be renewable every four years at the time of registration of
297 motor vehicles. No penalty shall be imposed for the overtime parking
298 of any motor vehicle bearing a number plate issued under this section
299 when it has been so parked by the disabled veteran to whom the plate
300 and an identification card were issued or by any person operating such
301 vehicle when accompanied by such disabled veteran, provided the
302 length of time for which such vehicle may remain parked at any one
303 location shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The surviving spouse of a
304 disabled veteran issued such special registration may retain any such
305 registration and number plates without charge for [his or her] such
306 surviving spouse's lifetime or until such time as [he or she] such
307 surviving spouse remarries.

308 Sec. 9. Subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
309 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
310 *1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
311 *2025*):

312 (19) Subject to the provisions of sections 12-89, 12-90 and 12-95,

313 property to the amount of one thousand dollars belonging to, or held in
314 trust for, (A) any resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in
315 section 27-103, [who was a member of the armed forces in service in time
316 of war,] (B) any resident of this state who was a citizen of the United
317 States at the time of [his] such resident's enlistment and who was in the
318 military or naval service of a government allied or associated with that
319 of the United States during the Second World War and received an
320 honorable discharge therefrom, (C) any resident of this state who served
321 during the Second World War as a member of any armed force of any
322 government signatory to the United Nations Declaration of January 1,
323 1942, and participated in armed conflict with an enemy of the United
324 States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten
325 years and presents satisfactory evidence of such service, (D) any
326 resident of this state who served as a member of the crew of a merchant
327 vessel during the Second World War and is qualified with respect to
328 such service as a member of the group known as the "American
329 Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed
330 conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945", members of which are
331 deemed to be eligible for certain veterans benefits under a
332 determination in the United States Department of Defense, as recorded
333 in the Federal Register of February 1, 1988, provided such resident has
334 received an armed forces discharge certificate from the Department of
335 Defense on the basis of such service, (E) any member of the armed forces
336 who was in service in time of war and is still in the service and by reason
337 of continuous service has not as yet received a discharge, (F) any person
338 who is retired from the armed forces after thirty years of service because
339 [he] such person has reached the age limit prescribed by law or because
340 [he] such person suffers from mental or physical disability, or (G) any
341 person who is serving in the armed services in time of war; or lacking
342 said amount of property in [his] such person's own name, so much of
343 the property belonging to, or held in trust for, [his] such person's spouse,
344 who is domiciled with [him] such person, as is necessary to equal said
345 amount. For the purposes of this subdivision, "veteran", "armed forces"
346 and "service in time of war" have the same meanings as provided in

347 section 27-103;

348 Sec. 10. Section 27-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the
349 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

350 When requested by the commander of any accredited veteran
351 organization or by friends or relatives of any deceased person who has
352 served in any of the armed forces of the United States, [during time of
353 war, as defined in section 27-103, or] who has served in the National
354 Guard for more than twenty years or who has died while a member of
355 the National Guard, the Adjutant General shall order an honor guard
356 detail from the National Guard, the naval militia, the State Guard or the
357 organized militia to attend the funeral, except that if an honor guard
358 detail from such guard or militia is unavailable or committed elsewhere,
359 the Adjutant General shall request an honor guard detail from a bona
360 fide Connecticut state veterans' organization, provided such detail shall
361 comply with the rules and procedures set forth in Connecticut National
362 Guard regulation 37-106. Such detail shall consist of not more than five
363 members plus one bugler. The members thereof shall be compensated
364 at the rate of sixty dollars per day. Such compensation shall be paid from
365 funds appropriated to the Adjutant General for the pay of the National
366 Guard and from federal funds received for that purpose.

367 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 21-37 of the general statutes is
368 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
369 *1, 2025*):

370 (a) Any town may make reasonable ordinances with reference to the
371 vending or hawking upon its public streets or upon any state highway,
372 except limited access highways, within such town or any land abutting
373 such streets or highways of any goods, wares or other merchandise at
374 public or private sale or auction, or to the vending or peddling of such
375 articles from house to house within its limits, including the imposition
376 of a fee, not exceeding two hundred dollars a year, applicable with
377 respect to any person engaged in such vending, hawking or peddling,
378 for the privilege of so vending, hawking or peddling such merchandise.

379 Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section which requires a permit
 380 may require that no such permit shall be issued to any person who has
 381 not obtained a permit to engage in or transact business as a seller within
 382 the state in accordance with section 12-409 and shall require that any
 383 permit issued pursuant to such ordinance shall be conspicuously
 384 displayed at the place the activities are undertaken. Such ordinances
 385 may provide that the authority issuing such permit may waive the
 386 permit fee for a nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxation by
 387 Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
 388 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time
 389 to time amended, or a charitable organization. No town shall require a
 390 permit fee from any resident of this state who has resided within the
 391 state for a period of two years next preceding the date of application for
 392 such permit, who is (1) a veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined
 393 in section 27-103, (2) a hawker or peddler, and (3) a principal pursuant
 394 to section 21-36.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-77(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-99(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10a-105(e)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	5-224
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	7-415
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	27-125
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	27-140
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-254
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025</i>	12-81(19)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	27-76
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	21-37(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate service in time of war as an eligibility criterion for certain state and municipal veterans' benefits.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.; REP. POULOS, 81st Dist.

S.B. 376

H.B. 5220